



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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TRACE AMOUNTS OF CHEMICAL FOUND IN WAHIAWA WELL

HONOLULU - The Department of Health has received laboratory reports confirming trace amounts of the contaminant Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) in a recently activated well in Wahiawa. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply found MTBE at 1.2 micrograms per liter or parts per billion in the Wahiawa Wells II, Pump 2.

MTBE is a gasoline additive that was utilized to reduce vehicle emissions. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not currently regulate MTBE, so there is no federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for this contaminant.

While this finding does not pose a health threat, the Department of Health will work together with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply to monitor this source to ensure that public health is not compromised.

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